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Message Text

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20
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /057 W
---------- 071073
R 220745Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0503

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT VS
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL QUERIES ON PRISONER CASES

REF: A) STATE 219584
B) SAIGON 13063

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM GVN RE PRISONER CASES ENABLING US TO COMPLETE RESPONSE TO REFTEL A.

2. GVN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROVIDES FOLLOWING FOR LE VAN KHOA, INSTANCE CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI. KHOA WAS ARRESTED FOR "ACTIVITIES DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER" AND WAS SENTENCED BY MILITARY FIELD COURT, MILITARY REGION III TO THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT. HE WAS FREED ON OCTOBER 8, 1973.

3. GVN NATIONAL POLICE SOURCE HAS NUMEROUS LISTINGS UNDER NAME "NGUYEN VAN SAU". CONGRESSMAN DONOHUE'S DESCRIPTION OF SAU AS "PART OF A CONTINGENT OF BUDDHIST MONKS ARRESTED AT LONG THANH ORPHANAGE FEB 2, 1972" NARROWS POSSIBILITIES TO THE ONE LISTING WHICH FOLLOWS: NGUYEN VAN SAU, OCCUPATION "RELIGIOUS MAN" WAS ARRESTED MARCH 15, 1972 BY QUANG TRUNG JUDICIAL MILITARY POLICE AND CHARGED WITH REFUSAL TO REPORT FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND INTENTIONALLY DISABLING HIMSELF. HE WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT AT THE SAIGON CORRECTION
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CENTER. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DELIVERED TO THE RECRUITMENT CENTER ON

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APR 26, 1973. IN RESPONDING TO THIS INQUIRY DEPT MAY
WISH TO NOTE THAT GVN HAS DEFINITE REGULATIONS ON THE
GRANTING OF RELIGIOUS DEFERMENTS FROM MILITARY SERVICE. FOR
EXAMPLE, THE INDIVIDUAL MUST SHOW THAT HE HAS BEEN STUDYING
OR PRACTICING HIS RELIGION PROFESSIONALLY FOR FIVE YEARS.
THE NATIONAL BODY OF THE CHURCH CONCERNED MUST SEND HIS
NAME TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. IT IS QUITE COMMON IN
VIETNAM FOR A CHILD OR YOUNG MAN TO BE COMMITTED TO A
RELIGIOUS VOCATION AT AN EARLY AGE. MOREOVER, GVN REGU-
LATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE THAT THE CLAIMANT ACHIEVE FULL
STATUS IN THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE RELIGION INVOLVED IN ORDER
TO QUALIFY FOR DRAFT DEFERMENT. IN SAU CASE
THE NECESSARY CRITERIA FOR RELIGIOUS DEFERMENT WERE NOT MET.

4. PARA 5, REFTEL B IN ERROR. CONGRESSMAN NIX INQUIRED
ABOUT HUYNH VAN SAU, NOT REPEAT NOT NGUYEN VAN SAU. NIX
BEING SENT SEPARATE LETTER BY EMBASSY.
MARTIN

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